



February 11, 2017

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS. In his proposal, the Governor seeks to reduce funding for the Services for Persons with Disabilities line item, which includes the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut (BIAC), by 20%.

As a practicing neurologist and brain injury researcher, I deal with brain injured patients and their families on a nearly daily basis. As devastating as the condition is, the financial hardship suffered by the families can be profound. Additionally, family members with a recently brain injured love one need a resource for information, help and guidance. This is where BIAC comes in. For 35 years, BIAC has received an operating grant from the Department of Social Services to provide free resources and supports which the State is unable to provide. DSS contracts with BIAC to provide the many essential services that it is not equipped to offer. BIAC meets the needs of the State's brain injury survivors on behalf of DSS as efficiently as it does effectively.

I strongly urge you NOT to cut the line item which includes BIAC funding. Frankly, I think BIAC is underfunded as it is. The work that it does is crucial to my TBI patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Peter McAllister, M.D.

Medical Director, New England Institute for Neurology and Headache

30 Buxton farm Road, Suite 230, Stamford CT www.NEINH.com

Clinical Assistant Professor, Yale University School of Medicine

Assistant Professor, Neurology, The Frank H. Netter School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University

